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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,997	09/17/2003	Soon Jo Lee	9988.058.00-US	1982
30827 7590 09/10/2007 MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP 1900 K STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006			EXAMINER GRAVINI, STEPHEN MICHAEL	
			ART UNIT 3749	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/10/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/663,997

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen Gravini

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 September 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION***Preliminary matter***

In light of prior art cited by applicants after prosecution on the merits was closed and comments made in an appeals conference, it was determined the current application is not proper for appeal. A new Office action on the merits treating the claimed invention in light of prior art cited by application to better reasonably and broadly construe the claimed invention, in light of the accompanying specification. It is believed that a final rejection is proper based on newly submitted art at this late stage of prosecution. Applicants are encouraged to submit the best prior art early in the patent prosecution process in order to expedite quality examination.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Katz et al. (US 5,611,609). The claims are reasonably and broadly construed, in light of the accompanying specification, to be disclosed by Katz as comprising:

- a base forming a floor of a body **10**;
- a front cabinet forming a front portion of the body;
- a side cabinet forming a side portion of the body;
- a back cover forming a back portion of the body wherein the base, front, side and back cover can all be seen in figure 1);

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a control panel **77** having a hook **79**;

a top cover **20** forming a top of the body wherein the top cover has a predetermined curvature as shown in figure 3, and wherein the control panel is provided on a rear portion of the top cover also as shown in figure 3, the top cover comprising a groove **68** provided at rear portion of the top cover such that the hook inserts into a hole **74** disposed in the groove; and

a fire wall **22** made of metal as disclosed at column 3 lines 13-35, and provided at a lower portion of the top cover and the firewall directing fluid toward an outside of the body if fluid leaks through the hole wherein one skilled in the art would recognize that the disclosed hole **74** blocked by hook **79** would direct fluid toward an outside of the body because fluid would leak toward the claimed hole and around it toward an outside of the disclosed body. Katz also discloses the firewall having the same predetermined curvature because the figures show that the firewall and groove have a predetermined curvature which is the same as shown in figure 3 along with the groove provided in left and right side directions.

Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Visin (US 6,371,583). The claimed invention is reasonably and broadly construed as being disclosed in Visin as comprising:

a body **10**;

a top cover **14a** covering the body, the top cover including:

a groove **74** which runs along a width of the top cover wherein the groove directs fluid on the top cover toward an exterior of the laundry dryer wherein the claimed

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laundry dryer is closed at column 2 line 20 and lines 60-62 and the disclosed openings form the claimed groove such that water will be directed as claimed;

at least one hole **70** disposed in the groove;

a control panel **16** including a hook **30**, **60**, or **26** disposed at a surface of the control panel opposite the top cover wherein the hook is configured for insertion into the at least one hole as shown in figures 2, 5, and 6; and

a fire wall **22** disposed below the top cover; wherein the firewall has a curvature such that if a fluid leaks through the hole onto the firewall, the fluid is directed toward an outside of the body. Visin also discloses the claimed top cover curvature as shown in figure 1.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-5 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of US Patent No. 7,192,102 in view of either Katz or Visin. Applicants patented invention discloses the claimed invention except for the claimed hook and groove fastening means. Katz or Visin, other laundry dryer appliances, disclose hook and groove fastening means as rejected above. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of the patented invention with the hook and groove fastening means disclosed in Katz or Visin, for the purpose of providing another secure fastening means in the filed of laundry appliances.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments filed August 3, 2007 have been fully considered but are moot on new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Gravini whose telephone number is 571 272 4875. The examiner can normally be reached on normal weekday business hours (east coast time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven B. McAllister can be reached on 571 272 6785. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SMG
September 4, 2007

Stephen Shan

SPM